

CASES BY DESIGN®



# WHO WE ARE

**5** Star Cases Limited is a leading manufacturer of specialist cases to a wide variety of applications and industries. For over a quarter of a century the company has gained considerable experience in this field. This has been achieved in various ways. Firstly, its commitment to training its employees. All our staff, from Production, Administration, Technical or Sales, take pride in what they do. Secondly, through continued investment in machinery, I.T. systems and software, training equipment and property facilities.

Since its formation, 5 Star has grown into Europe's leading manufacturer, designing and manufacturing cases for many applications and industries. Its core business is the entertainment sector which amongst others includes Audio Visual, Sound and Lighting, Theatre, Exhibition and Events. However, in recent years the company has strengthened other market sectors with the supply of specialist cases to Aerospace, Military, Medical, Telecommunications and Engineering applications.

With its experience, 5 Star has the ability to

tackle almost any project, large or small, complex or simple. We pride ourselves on prompt and efficient service, with extremely quick delivery times. Our Sales Team can react to urgent requirements and can work closely with the client to discuss specific needs. Our Production facilities are also well equipped to cope with tight deadlines.

The company is based in the heart of the Cambridgeshire Fens and occupies a site of almost 30,000 sq. ft., which is well equipped with modern production and administrative facilities. In 2001, 5 Star Cases strengthened its position by acquiring Mossman Trunks Limited, adding a further brand to its already extensive range of products.



# MANUFACTURING

**H**igh quality materials are used throughout construction of all 5 Star cases and products. The majority of cases are constructed using birch plywood from renewable sources. Exterior covering is by means of a wide variety of materials including coloured high pressure laminates (HPL), aluminium stucco panels and extruded vinyl



sheets, all of which are bonded in-house using water-based adhesives and a heated press system.

Glued and pinned is the preferred method of carcass construction, although alternatives are also employed including special aluminium extrusions that 'lock' the carcass together. High grade aluminium profiles are groove-riveted to all external faces, along with hybrid valences fitted between mating sections, giving a dust proof seal.

Our modern factory is well equipped to produce just about any case, irrespective of size or complexity. To date, we have built protective case solutions for such diverse products as complete race cars to models of woolly mammoths! To do this, we have the right facilities at our disposal. In 1999, the company purchased its first CNC machining





centre, a Thermwood C40 with automatic tool-changer, vacuum hold-down, and 10hp spindle. Five years later, a second Thermwood machine was installed. With continued investment a key strategy of the company, a third C40 CNC was recently acquired to bolster 5 Star's machining capabilities.

These three CNC machining centres form the backbone of the company's manufacturing facility. Along with this, our aluminium extrusion cutting department is also well equipped with NC and CNC controlled saws, V-notchers and punches. A total of fourteen fitting stations are in use, enabling 5 Star Cases to produce



one of the quickest response times in the industry. Complimented by four Nordson hot-melt adhesive systems, Dry-Back spray booths, Panel Laminating Line with heated platen press, three Hyma band-knife systems, two Samco foam presses and a host of other production facilities.

Case hardware is sourced predominantly from Penn Elcom, by far the leader in the field of quality hardware solutions to the case and cabinet industry. Whilst the majority of hardware is from standard items, 5 Star rely heavily on custom designed and manufactured items, such as catches, hinges, handles and more. Sourcing from quality vendors ensures the durability of all 5 Star products.

# WHAT WE PRODUCE

Our core business is the design and manufacture of specialist cases to a wide variety of industries and applications. However, 5 Star have gained much experience in producing related products for Exhibition Displays, Stage Manager Desks, Point of Sale systems and more.

- Audio Mixing Consoles
- Lighting Control Desks
- 19" Rack Mount System
- Presentation Display Cases
- Sample Cases
- Road Trunks
- Engineering Equipment Cases



By combining traditional flight cases with custom designed CNC machined internal 'pods' and consoles, a unique protective solution can be produced. This type of console finds a variety of use in Aerospace, Military, Broadcast and Engineering applications for 'Control Workstations', 'Telemetry Systems' and 'Data Monitoring Consoles'. Built-in TFT screens, shock-absorbing 19" rack mounts, power distribution access hatches can be incorporated into the design. Our custom configured Solid Edge 3D modelling software takes care of complex designs.





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# FOAM INSERTS

**5** Star Cases has been involved in foam fabrication for over a quarter of a century and gained much experience in this field. The company has a vast array of foam fabrication facilities at its disposal. Not only this, but most of the staff employed in the department have been with the company for many years. We keep a vast stock of raw materials which ensures prompt deliveries.

These materials include:

- Polyethylene Sheet
- Polyurethane HLB Blocks
- Profiled Polyurethane
- Brushed Nylon Facing
- Coloured Suedette Facings
- Anti-Static Jiffycell®

Our stocks of foam sheet, block and facing materials are usually sufficient to meet most requirements. But our suppliers also keep many other foam types including coloured polyethylene, neoprene, natural rubber and expanded EPDM. These can be ordered specially to individual requirements.

We have at our disposal, a wide range of foam

fabrication equipment. Continued investment means that this department is able to cope with most foam fabrication requirements. The materials mentioned above can be used in combination with others. For

instance, polyurethane (HLB) is often bonded to polyethylene to give additional protection.

While different grades of polyethylene are bonded to each other, again where varying protection is required. Technical Data sheets are available for all our foam and associated media which are available upon request.

Foam inserts can be fabricated in many ways.

One of which is CNC routed, using one of the three Thermwood C-40 machining centres.

These types of inserts are best suited to single and low volume production runs. Traditional die cut foam inserts are still popular however and are more cost effective on multiple and repeat orders.





## INNOVATION WITH TRADITION

**5** Star has been producing cases for over a quarter of a century and in this time has gained an enviable reputation in the design and manufacture of specialist case solutions. The company has gained this reputation and experience by combining traditional case building methods with modern technology and facilities. Continued investment over the years means that 5 Star Cases has remained as Europe's leading manufacturer of specialist case solutions.

With the introduction over ten years ago into CNC machining, the company found itself forging an enviable reputation by using this modern technology to its advantage. Cases can be transformed into visually appealing and complex projects by combining the skills of the 5 Star designers and capabilities of the CNC machines. Simple plywood panels can be turned into complex 'pods' and 'consoles', incorporating engraved logos, radius profiled

edges and access hatches.

Finished in a durable synthetic 'splatter' coat, transforming plywood pieces into stunning enclosures and internal support structures.

Further recent investment into Solid Edge® 3D modelling, animation and rendering software, again enables 5 Star Cases to lead the way in the design of case solutions. Fully rendered photo realistic images of proposed projects can be produced by our design team. These 3D files are CNC ready, speeding up the production process. Whilst not every project is carried out using this 3D software, all cases produced are CAD/CAM and CNC ready and stored on our file servers for quick retrieval and repeat orders.





## TRUNKS OF DISTINCTION



**M**ossman Trunks have been made in the UK for over 50 years and the method of manufacture has by and large, remained unchanged for much of this period. Mossman Trunks are popular in boarding schools, home storage solutions and travel luggage.

They are constructed from quality plywood to which has been bonded a covering of either PVC or Aluminium. The plywood panels are assembled with PVC edging and extrusions using special bifurcated rivets producing a permanent and

durable fixing. External hardware such as



protective corners, catches and locks, handles and hinges are also riveted to the trunk. Three ranges form the backbone of the Mossman brand. The 'Traditional' range is where it all began, featuring tough plastic binding, combined with quality brass effect hardware such as locks, hinges and handles. Further ranges have been added which include the 'Industrial' and the 'Diamond' and are all extremely versatile trunks in their own right. Whilst the 'Diamond' range is similar to 'Traditional', external covering is a striking diamond embossed aluminium finish. The 'Industrial' range features extrude aluminium profiles to all leading edges, complimented with nickel and zinc plated hardware.

5 Star Cases acquired Mossman Trunks Limited in early 2001 and now forms part of its extensive product portfolio.





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